

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are an image processing apparatus that can decrease such a misjudgment that an area including an extremely small-sized character is judged to be a halftone-dot area  
5 when a judgment of a halftone-dot area is performed based on a number of isolated pixels in a predetermined area, and an image forming apparatus that utilizes the image processing apparatus. An isolated pixel signal S2 that is outputted from \*an isolated pixel detection unit 443 and that indicates 10 whether a target pixel corresponds to an isolated pixel is inputted into a filter processing unit 444. The filter processing unit 444 corrects the isolated pixel signal S2 based on whether the target pixel should be handled as an isolated pixel. A judgment is then performed as to whether 15 an area including the target pixel is a halftone-dot area, based on a signal S3 outputted from the filter processing unit 444.